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THE HOT SPRINGS ITEM NOT STOLEN. MR. ZAMACONA'S ADVENTURES AMONG THE SILVER BROKERS - APPROPRIATIONS - AN IMPORTANT

SILVER BILL-MINOR NEWS. It has finally been ascertained that the story is false that the Hot Springs was deliberately stolen. Mr. Zamacona had a very hard time in New-York in trying to get 300,000 pesos of silver converted into gold. The Appropriation Committee of the House expects to pass all the appropriation bills by February 20. A bill for a silver dollar of 480 grains has been prepared, and is to be sent to Congress. The correspondence of the late Minister Taylor shows that he took very great interest in protecting the rights of American citizens.

UNFOUNDED SUSPICIONS. THE HOT SPRINGS INVESTIGATION NEAR ITS END AND THE FACT THAT THERE WAS NO THEFT AP-

IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—The Hot Springs Investigation Committee held a meeting to-day and nearly completed the taking of testimony. The result has been to show that the suspicions of the Secret Service men were entirely unfounded; that innocent men have been followed and shadowed during the Summer without cause; and that the most preposterous stories have been circulated about persons of good character. The report will show that the omission of the Hot Springs amendment was entirely the result of an accident. It is remarkable that more errors of that sort do not occur in the haste and confusion of the closing hours of a session.

A FACT ABOUT MR. TAYLOR. DIS EFFORTS IN BEHALF OF BIS COUNTRYMEN VIS ITING IN GERMANY VERY PERSISTENT.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Washington, Dec. 24 .- The most superficial examination of the few dispatches sent from Berlin by the late Minister, Bayard Taylor, which have have been published in the diplomatic correspondence, shows how unjust have been the complaints made by some German-American citizens and newspapers that he failed to demand and enforce that protection for their fellow countrymen to which, as citizens of the United States they were entitled. No subject connected with his official duties received from him more frequent or earnest attention. Before he had been a month at his post, Mr. Taylor called the attention of Secre-Evarts to the case of Charles Ganzen muller; and the whole of his correspondence or this general subject (and it occupies more space in the volume of "foreign relations" than his dispatches on all other topics combined), shows that while he was unwilling that the naturalization his dispatches on all other topics combined, shows that while he was unwilling that the naturalization laws of the United States should be taken advantage of by foreigners simply as a means of escape from the duties of citizenship in their native country, he was always ready to do everything in his power to protect American citizens, and he even interfered in their behalf when they had violated the freaty and ware not sufficiently. ity and were not entitled to protection.

A CHANCE FOR THE HOUSE.

THE SUBJECT OF SOUTHERN ELECTION FRAUDS NOW OPEN FOR DISCUSSION IN THE LOWER BRANCH OF CONGRESS. IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.1

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.-In consequence of the decision of the First Controller of the Treasury, reterred to in tast night's dispatches, that the \$20,000 appropriated during the last session cannot be used except for investigating alleged irregularities in connection with the Presidential election, members of the Teller Committee believe it will be impossible to begin their work until after the reas sembling of Congress. The whole matter will probabiy have to be passed upon then by the House of

THE DOUGLAS COTTON CLAIM.

A DECISION IN THE COURT OF CLAIMS YESTERDAY IN FAVOR OF THE BEIRS.

Washington, Dec. 24.-The suit against the Government, brought by the heirs of Stephen A. Douglas, for certain cotton captured by the United States Government in Mississippi during the war and sold as abandoned property, was settled finally in the Court of Claims to-day by a judgment in favor of the claimants. This case has been pending for years, and has been the subject of much controversy, investigation and litigation. The heirs are Rebert M. Douglas, United States Marshal for the Western District of North Carolina, and Stephen A. Douglas, jr.

A TALK WITH MR. ZAMACONA. HOW THE BROKERS AT NEW-YORK TRIED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIM-THE COMING EXCURSION TO

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—An incident highly illus-

INY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

trative of the clumsiness of silver as a currency, was related by Senor Zamacona, the Mexican Mininter, last evening, During the past ten days he has been to New

York, receiving the third instalment of the Mexican award money. This amounts to enough Mexican "pesos" or silver dollars to purchase \$300,000 in gold, the decision of the Claims Commission making that the standard of all payments. The brokers, aware of this fact and knowing that the money would have to be forthcoming by the 1st of January, concluded to take advantage of Mr. Zamacona's necessity and charge him their own price for the exchange. To the surprise of that gentleman, when he went to them with his silver he was informed that they would allow him only 76 cents on the dollar for it. His disgust at the proposition may be imagined. He was pared for a large discount, but why he should compelled to pay 8 per cent brokerage and get less than bullion is worth, was more than he could see. He therefore broke the sum of the instalment into small amounts, and after much trouble in running about town from one broker's office to another, managed to negotiate the exchange at a discount of 18 per cent instead of the 24 per cent demanded at first. The instalment will therefore

be promptly paid upon maturity. Upon being asked what the prospects were of the success of the excursion of Chicago and New-York merchants to Mexico, which occurs next month, Mr. Zamacona replied that they are most flattering. Arrangments have been made by the Government to entertain the gentlemen upon their arrival. A special steamer will take them from New-Orleans, whose merchants are preparing to receive their New-York and Chicago friends in proper style, and land them in Vera Cruz in two and a half days, one-half the usual time required for the trip. Thus far about

usual time required for the trip. Thus far about 150 gentlemen have signified their intention of making the trip.

Secretary Evarts said on Saturday that notwithstanding contrary reports, this excursion is in no way an official or formal affair on the part of this Government, although Mr. Foster has been informed of it. It was understood that Mr. Foster and the America consular officers will be very polite to the merchants, and do all in their power in an informal way to make the excursion a success.

AN INDIAN WAR TRAMPLED OUT. CHIEF MOSES AND HIS PRINCIPAL MEN CAPTURED

WITHOUT FIRING A GUN. IGENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24 .- The Indian Bureau is today in receipt of the following important telegram, which is there regarded with great satisfaction, as indicating that the recently immment danger of an Indian war in Washington Territory has been averted by the action of the agents of the Interior Department and other civil authorities.

Department and other civil authorities.

YARIMA. W. T., Dec. 22, via the Dalles, Dec. 23.

TO E. A. HATT, Commissioner:

Moses and ten of his principal men have been taken.

Moses and three of them are here in prison. They were
brought to-day. The Smohalls berd are getting on to
the reservation as fast as they can travel. Not a gun

STRAY WASHINGTON TOPICS. has been fired. Our police are working in harmony with the volunteers, who are doing nobly.

JAMES H. WILBUR, U. S. Indian Agent.

THE APPPOPRIATION BILLS. SOME HARD WORK BEING DONE DURING VACATION.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.-The sub-committee of the House Committee on Appropriations is engaged daily in the preparation of the Legislative, Exec utive and Judicial Appropriation bill, and will have it ready to report to the House on the day Congress again meets. Mr. Hewitt is also preparing the Army Appropriation bill, and will endeavor to complete it during the recess. The Appropriations Committee expects to have all the appropriation bills passed and sent to the Senate by February 20

A SHORT CABINET MEETING.

IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNG. WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.-The absence from Washington of Secretaries Sherman and Evarts and Attorney-General Devens caused the Cabinet meeting to-day to be a short and very unimportant one. Of course no appointment to the Berlin Mission has been decided upon.

AN APPOINTMENT TO THE BENCH.

IGENERAL PRESS DISPATCH. WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—The President will apsoint Mr. Nelson, of Worcester, Mass., Judge of the United States District Court of Massachusetts, a vacancy caused by the promotion of Judge Lowell to the Circuit Judgeship. Mr. Nelson is the law partner of Senator Hoar.

A SILVER DOLLAR OF 480 GRAINS. COIN PROPOSED WHICH SHALL BE WORTH A GOLD

DOLLAR. IGENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.1 WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—The following bill will be introduced in the House of Representatives after the

An act to increase the value of the standard silver dollar, make the same a legal-tender exchangeable for gold coins, providing for its coinage and for other pur-

Be it enacted, etc., That the silver dollar of the United States shall contain 480 grains troy, 900 fine, and shall be impressed with the same devices and legends as the trade dollar her-tofere coloned, except that the word "one" shall be substituted for the word "trade," and

be inpressed with the same decreased that the word "one" shall be substituted for the word "rade," and the figures "450" for the figures "420". Sec. 2. That the silver dollar of the United States herein authorized and provided for shall be a legal-tender for all amounts, and shall be exchangeable for the gold coins of the United States herein suthorized and provided for shall be a legal-tender for all amounts, and shall be exchangeable for the gold coins of the United States at the Treasury or the Sub-Treasury at New-York; provided, that whenever under this authority silver dollars shall be presented for exchange in such sums as to show the amount outstanding to be redundant, the Secretary of the Treasury may diminish or discontinue the manufacture of such colinage until otherwise ordered by him. Sec. 3. Any owner of silver builton may deposit the same at any mint, to be formed into bars as now provided by law, or dollars or the weight of 450 grains troy, as designated in this act; provided, that the Secretary of the Treasury be authorized to discontinue the receipt of such bullion when the dollars shall have become redundant; and provided, further, that the trade dollars of the United States shall be received by the Government for all debts and obligations due it, to be received into dollars of 450 grains troy, which shall hereafter be the only authorized silver dollar.

Sec. 4. That the subsidiary silver colunge of the United States shall be exchangeable for gold coins at the Treasury or the Suc-Treasury at New-York at the pleasure of the holder.

Sec. 5. That the Secretary of the Treasury be authorized and directed to cause to be printed and kept in good condition for circulation, fractional or postal currency to the amount of \$10.000,000, of the denominations of 25 and 50 cents, which shall be interchangeable with the subsidiary comace for convenience in the transmission of small sums through the mails.

Sec. 6. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

RAIDING IN SOUTH CAROLINA. FORCE TRAVELS 575 MILES AND CAPTURES

SEVEN ILLICIT STILLS. [GENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.]

Washington, Dec. 24.-Commissioner Raum has received a detailed report from Collector Brayton, of South Carolina, of the operations carried on in Abbe under command of Deputy Collector Hoffman, from the licit stills were seized, of a capacity ranging from istillers were arrested, five in the very act. The re-

port concludes as follows:

In accompilshing the above work the force has travelled 575 miles since November 28, frequently both night and day with but little rest. We were also put to considerable expense on account of our horses, being frequently compelled to leave our broken-down stock and hire fresh horses. It affords me pleasure to add that the sentiments of the lubabitants of this locality have undergone a great change. On our arrival here we were looked on with distributions of the little was calined that there was no illect distribution in these counties, but our discoveries, the determination to discharge our duties and the character and good conduct of the men employed, have wrought a change in their feeling, and most of the better classes of citizens have expressed regret at our departure. There is no doubt that our operations in the monutains have had the effect of cutting off the illeit whisky supply in these lower counties, and unless occasional raids are made to these parts illicit distilling will be again begun.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

Washington, Tuesday, Dec. 24, 1878.

The subscriptions to the 4 per cent loan to-day amounted to \$1,112,000.

E. L. Pierce, of Boston, Mass., has been appointed Assistant Treasurer of the United States at that city in the place of Havens, who has neld the office for cleven years. To-day, in the case of James H. Whitten (an ex-licuten-

ent of the United States Army), charged with having on the 6th of December presented a false claim for \$128.33 to Major Charles W. Wingard, Paymaster United States Army, falsely representing himself to be H. K. Bailey, second lieutenant 5th Infautry, a verdict of not guilty

THE MELANCHOLY HISTORY OF A LIFE.

ROGERS CITY, Mich., Dec. 24.-Eva Leroy, a young woman, was found lying in the road, badly frozen, near here last night. She was brought to town. The surgeons decided the amputation of both legs to be necessary, but she died during the operation. She was a dissolute woman, who had been driven out of Alpena without funds. Becoming exhausted, she had fallen by the readside, where she was found. It is said that she was once a beautiful girl. She was a native of Cieve-land, and went to Detroit, where, a few years ago, she created a sensation; but afterward sank lower and lower, until no one would give her shelter.

SHOOTING IN A PIEECING WIND.

RED BANK, N. J., Dec. 24 .- The last semiouthly meeting for the year of the Shrewsbury Club of gentleman shooters came off this afternoon. A piercing wind blew from the northwest, benumbing the flugers of the marksmen, to the manifest detriment of the scores made. The prize, a handsome gold badge, was won by made. The prize, a nanosome good badge, was won by Maryor Samuel W. Morford, of Red Bank, by a score of 12 out of 15 balls. A pretty ornament in the shapes of leather badge highly timedied with gold is presented to the marksman making the lowest score. Through the kindness of Mr. Hendrickson in withdrawing on the twelfth round, Mr. Charles Stilwell will wear this trophy until the next shoot of the club.

CONFEDERATES AS JUROES.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Dec. 24 .- In the United States Court yesterday several persons, arrested under an indiciment of the late United States Grand Jury, were in court. Counsel interposed the plea that the in-dictments were void, because some of the Grand Jury had been in the Confederate Army. Judge Bruce decided to-day that the plea was not good; that the section, although in the statutes, had been repealed before the statutes were revised by Congress; and that the act of Congress making all in the book the "law" did not revive the repealed section. The cases were all postponed until Thursday.

ACTION AGAINST A LIFE COMPANY.

ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 24 .- John W. Walsh, of the Attorney-General's office, has gone to New-York to serve papers on the Empire Mutual Life Insurance Company, directing that company to show cause why a receiver should not be appointed.

MR. GEORGE LOWE KILLED.

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., Dec. 24.-George Lowe, of Morristown, N. J., was found dead on the Hudson River Hailroad track at Castleton this morning, with part of his head torn away. It is supposed that he accidentally fell from a midnight train.

THE BOND STREET SAVINGS BANK.

ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 24.-Justice Langdon to-day confirmed the report of Mr. A. P. Strong, the S. Paine, receiver of the Bond Street Savings Bank. The referee fluds that the receiver's receipts since February 1, 1877, were \$293,055 43, and that he had paid out in NEW-YORK, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1878.

THE STORM IN THE WEST.

BUFFALO DELUGED WITH SNOW. BREEZES FOR WHICH THAT CITY IS FAMOUS COM-

PLETELY BLOCKADE THE CENTRAL RAILEOAD. BUFFALO, N. Y., Dec. 24.-The storm of snow and wind, which began on Sunday evening, contiques with only an occasional luli, and at this time (10:30 p. m.) it is blowing almost a gale. Since Sunday afternoon snow has fallen to the depth of thirty-seven

inches, and the wind at noon to-day attained a velocity of seventy-two miles an hour. The severity of the storm extends in area about ten miles east of this city. On the Central Railroad no trains, passenger or freight, have arrived or started from the city since Monday morning, except on the Niagara Falls branch. The New-York Central train and postal car which left New-York last night, is stalled at Lancaster, ten miles east of here, the track from there being completely blocked with snow. The drifts are in some places six

to eight feet deep, and for the present all efforts at

clearing it have been abandoned on account of the On the Eric Road 200 men were at work all night at the immense banks of snow in the vicinity of East Buffalo. The train which left here yesterday afternoon was returned to the city, and nothing has been sent out since. An attempt will be made to start a train early to-morrow. On the Lake Shore Road through and loca

to-morrow. On the Lake shore Road through and local passenger trains are being sent out, each one of from seven to nine cars, with from four to six eigmes as far as Augola, beyond which the track is comparatively clear. All trains are necessarily behind time, but live stock trains are being received regularly.

On the Canada roads the tracks are clear beyond Fort Eric, and there is comparatively little snow from that point in. Trains are running with considerable irregularity. On the local roads trafic is almost entirely suspended. On the Buffalo, New-York and Philadelphia Road, thirty freight cars and three engines are completely covered with snow near Ebenezer; and the express train due here at 11 o'clock yesterday is not in yet, being stalled at the latter place.

At the East Buffalo live-stock yards nothing has been shipped ont sluce Sunday, and there are on hand at this point 120 cars of cattle, 100 cars of nogs and 30 cars of sheep. The intense cold has prevented local dealers from moving purchases made Monday.

CHICAGO ALMOST ISOLATED.

TRAINS INTERPERED WITH BY THE SNOW AND WIND-THE COLD SEVERE IN MANY PLACES.

CHICAGO, Ill., Dec. 24.-The extremely cold weather of the past few days has made an unusually quiet Christmas sesson on the streets. Trains have been lelayed as much as twelve hours on some roads, and freight trains have, in some cases, been laid up entirely. The embargo on railroad travel seems to become more rigid, the severity of the cold and the constant drifting of snow proving more serious obstacles than before. St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 24.-The Mississippi

River is closed by ice from St. Paul to Cairo. LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Dec. 24.-To-day has been the coldest day of the season, the mercury indicat-ing 30° at 6 o'clock p. m.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, Dec. 24.—The weather here is very cold to-day, the thermometer standing at zero this morning. There are several inches of snow on

DETROIT, Mich., Dec. 24.-The weather in this section has been extremely cold for the last few days, the thermometer falling as low as four degrees low zero. Snow has failen in large quantities. Trains on nearly all the reads centring in this city were delayed last night. The Michigan Central Road, west of Kalamazoo, has been blocked with snow. There were no trains over the Toledo and Ann Arbor Railroad to-day, on account of heavy snow drifts be-tween Ann Arbor and Dundee.

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 24.-The temperature for the past two days ranged from 5° to 8° below zero. A very high wind prevailed most of the time. The meximum velocity was forty-five miles per hour. Neacly all the railroads centring here report trouble from snowdrifts. The officials of the St. Paul Road say to-night that their road is again and the trains are running about on time. The Milwaukee division of the Northwestern Read has probpassenger train from Chicago, due here at moon, did not arrive until 5 p. m. The ruad is now clear of drifts, however, and by to-morrow the trains will probably be running on time.

THE STEAMERS ON THE SOUND. PROVIDENCE, R. I., Dec. 24.—The steamer Old Colony, for New-York, after going out from Newport last night, returned because of the heavy sea. The

steamer Newport, from New-York, arrived at Newport at 5 o'clock this morning. HEAVY SNOW STORM IN CANADA. TORONTO, Ont., Dec. 24.—There is a heavy

snow storm in the west and northwestern part of Onta-

rio, the snow fall varying from one to three feet on the level. Trains are considerably delayed. THE STATE OF LOUISIANA ASHORE.

FEARS THAT SHE WILL BE A TOTAL WRECK. THE VESSEL STRANDED ON THE IRISH COAST-THE CREW AND PASSENGERS SAFE.

LONDON, Tuesday, Dec. 24, 1878. The State Line steamship State of Louisiana, Captain Johnstone, from Glasgow for New-York, grounded on Hunter's Rock when entering Lough Larne, about seventeen miles from Belfast, this morning, and remains in a dangerous position. She is reported to have nine feet of water in her engineroom. Every assistance has been sent to the vessel, and her owners hope to float her. The crew and passengers were all saved. The weather is still exceedingly foggy. The account says the steamship is likely to prove a total wreck.

LONDON, Wednesday, Dec. 25, 1878. Two powerful tugs and several vessels to lighten the steamship State of Louisiana have left Belfast. Nothing definite is ascertainable relative to the real condition of the vessel.

The State Line steamships sail on the outward voyage, for this port, from Glasgow generally on Fridays, and call at Larne to receive passengers and freight from Belfast, Ireland, which is about seventeen freight from Belfast, Ireland, which is about seventeen miles from that place. The steamers carry saloon, second cabin and steerage passengers. Among the steamers are those named after the States of Nevada, Indiana, Virginia and Georgia.

The State of Louislana was a sister ship to the State

of Alabama and State of Minnesota, which three vessels were built for the line when it was first established, to run between New-Orleans and Glasgow. This line had been running about a year when, in May, 1873, its terminus was transferred from New-Orleans to this pert. The Louislana was built principally for earrying freight, and had accommodation only a limited number of passengers. She had not been employed regularly on the route, and two years ago was engaged in the China coasting trade. Austin P. Baldwin, one of the New-York agents, stated P. Baldwin, one of the New-York agents, stated tast night that he had received a dispatch in the morning stating that the vessel had been delayed, but nothing further. The dispatch shown him by the reporter of The Tribune he stated gave him information which he was not before acquainted with. As he did not know the nature of the vessel's eargo he could not speak definitely as to its value. The vessels of this line always stop at Larne, and as the entrance to the barbor is intricate and the weather was forgy at the time of the accident, he could not attribute the mishap to carelessness. These steamships had been so regular in their arrivals on cersecond not attribute the mismap to carelessness. Indees steamships had been so regular in their arrivals on cer-tain days at each end of the line that he had begun to believe that an accident could not occur to them.

SHIPPING BURNED AT WILMINGTON.

TWO STEAMERS DESTROYED AS WELL AS A LARGE NUMBER OF STORES.

WILMINGTON, N. C., Dec. 24.-The steamer J. P. Underhill was burned at her wharf this morning. The flames spread to the *teamer Northeast, and to buildings in the vicinity. Half a square was burned, including five stores, five warchouses, two steamers, two stables, five horses, 100 hogsheads of molasses, 700 tons of coal, 1,000 hogsheads of molasses, 700 tons of coal, 1,000 barrels of rosin, and a large amount of other produce, involving a total loss of \$70,000, on which there is insurance as follows: In the Phornix, \$7,000; Æins of Hartford, \$4,000; Underwriters' Agency, \$4,000; German-American, \$2,000; Lancashire, \$2,400; Hone, of New-York, \$1,000; Howard, of New-York, \$1,000; Howard, of New-York, \$1,00; Connection, \$3,000; North American, \$2,000; Queen, \$5,000. The fire originated from a raft lying beside the steamer.

CHRISTMAS AT OTTAWA.

OTTAWA, Ont., Dec. 24 .- The usual Christmas cheer was distributed among the poor of this city to-day, 380 families being relieved. The Governor-General to-day sent the Mayor \$400 for city charities.

dividends \$245,240 07, leaving a balance in his hands FACTS ABOUT RESUMPTION.

A TALK WITH SECRETARY SHERMAN. HIS EXPLICIT DENIALS OF CONGRESSMAN HEWITT'S CHARGES-NO FAVORITISM SHOWN TO ANY BANK-HOPES OF A SPEEDY REFUNDING OF FIVE-TWENTY BONDS-HIS VISIT TO THE CUS

In a conversation yesterday about Mr. Hewitt's charges of favoritism to the First National Bank, Secretary Sherman declared that the charges were untrue. He said that not a dollar had been deposited with this or any other bank; all had been treated precisely alike. Concerning the double interest during the remainder of the call, he showed that this was unavoidable in the operation of refunding. He expressed the hope that next year all the remainder of the 5-20 bonds would be refunded. Secretary Sherman spent yesterday at the Custom House, discussing schemes for the payment of duties.

GETTING GOLD FOR RESUMPTION.

SECRETARY SHEEMAN REPLIES TO MR. ABRAM S HEWITI'S CHARGES OF FAVORITISM TO THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK-THE SYNDICATE AND THE FOUR PER CENT BONDS-MR. SHERMAN HOPES TO REFUND THE REMAINDER OF THE 5-20 BONDS NEXT YEAR.

Secretary Sherman was just getting ready late esterday afternoon to take the train back to Washington when his attention was called to the interview with Mr. Hewitt published in the third edition of The Evening Post, in which Mr. Hewitt repeated at some length his arraigument of the Secretary recently presented to the House for favoritism to the First National Bank in the matter of procuring the gold for resumption purposes and in funding operations. After reading it, Secretary Sherman said he thought Mr. Hewitt had, as usual, formed and expressed his opinion without hearing, reading or inquiring as to the facts. He seemed to think that in some way the First National Bank had been improperly

"The very magnitude of our success," said Mr. Sherman, "in refunding and resumption, is the ground of the charge of favoritism. This charge is absolutely untrue. The sale of \$50,000,000 of bonds for resumption purposes was made to the Syndicate, not from choice, but because the banks of New-York could not, with due regard to the wants of gold coin the Treasury needed. The Syndicate the full market price and paid the actual coin precisely as they agreed. They selected the First National Bank, one of their members, as the medium of payment. I did not. It was necessary under the law to have a National bank as an intermediary in paying for the bonds, and I would have accepted any other as readily. The bonds were paid for exactly as stipulated in contract, in actual certificates or called bonds, the two latter representing actual gold coin in the Treasury. No bonds were delivered except upon full payment, and the certificate of the bank was only received when fully secured by a deposit of United States

"As to the 4 per cent bonds," continued Mr. Sherman, "their sale was and is open to all the world on the same terms. Every National bank was invited by public advertisement, often re peated, and sent in circulars to every bank and banker in the United States to become Government agents and public depositories for the sale of these bonds, with full notice that subscriptions made by them or through them by any person whatever, would be received and the amount left on deposit to await the ninety-day calls required by law. Not one dollar was deposited by the Treasury with either the First National Bank or any other bank on account They were required, without exception or discrimination, to pay into the Treasury within the duration of the current calls of 5-20s the amount of their subscription, either in com, coin certificates or called bonds, and it is just to them to say that every subscription was promptly met without delay or loss. In the course of business most of it was paid by called bonds, thus making the refunding a remarkable success without the use of much com. The First National Bank and National Bank of Commerce, of New-York, and the Maverick National Bank, of Boston, were the most active and success ful agents in this business, and thus their subscriptions and sales were the largest, and the amounts on nominal deposit were larger precisely in accordance with the amount of their sales. They had no favors of the Treasury, but they rendered great service to

the Government by their activity and success." Concerning the double interest during the runng of the call, complained of by Mr. Hewitt, that, said Mr. Sherman, was unavoidable in the operation of refunding. The call could not be made until subscriptions were made, or were reasonably sure. This was fully settled in Secretary Boutwell's time. "Mr. Hewitt, in his interview," remarked the Secretary, "supposes a case as follows:

"Suppose a banker, in what he considered to be a fa-able state of the market, takes \$100,000,000 in 4 per cent bonds. Mr. Sherman delivers them at once, tak-ing as security a deposit of the same amount in 6 per cent bonds. The banker draws interest on both bonds for three months, and all he has ever put up is the 6 per cent bonds."

"This is precisely the operation that the law contemplates. In the case supposed, before the end of ninety days the banker would have to pay for the bonds in gold coin or else his 6 per cent bonds would be sold and the proceeds applied to the redemption of the called bonds. If Mr. Hewitt does not see that this is a favorable operation for the Government, he is not as shrewd a business man as I took him to be. We lose interest on the 4 per cent bonds amounting to 1 per cent, and gain interest at the rate of 2 per cent per annum for all time. I should be delighted if any banker would make the proposition for \$350,-000,000 or less. As for the ninety days required by law for the call, I think it sometimes is too long, and have invited the attention of Congress to it, but now, under the law, the call must run for that time

" I wish next year to refund the whole of the balance of the 5-20s, amounting to about \$350,000,-000, on substantially the same terms; and if the other banks will be as active as the banks named have been, it can be easily and readily done, and they will make their commissions, and the United States will save seven millions a year in the interest of the public debt. Perhaps this ignorant outery will help along in this good work, by advertising free the easy way it can be accomplished. As for any abuse I may receive by fault-finding persons while they are finding out the process of refunding, I can stand it with composure, and they wi'l learn something. If any one is really foolish enough to think that I or any officer of the Government has done any act injurious to the public interests or from im-proper motives, I will gladly help him in the inquiry. I must confess I am surprised by the ignorance manifested at what has been going on for six years in the open light of day upon public advertisement," The essential points of Mr. Hewitt's interview in The Post, to which the Secretary of the Treasury replies above, are as follows:

replies above, are as follows:

"The grievance is this: That the Secretary of the Treasury has exercised a discretion (if he has any discretion, and this is yet to be ascertained) to the advantage of this bank and not of the Government. This is the grievance. During the last eight months the double interest—that is, the interest on the 4 per cent bonds and on the 6 per cent bonds—paid out by the Government on the \$30,000,000 montally average held by this bank is more than \$1,000,000. Here are the figures in The Congressional Record. What proportion the bank has made 1

don't know. I only know that the Government has lost the \$1,000,000."

Do you blame the bank !"

"Do you blame the bank ?"

"No."
"No."
"Do you blame Mr. Sherman !"
"If he has violated the law, he is to blame. If he has overd it, he is not to blame. If he has obeyed it, he is not to blame. If he has obeyed it, he is not to blame. If he has discretion in the the matter, and in the use of that discretion selected a method legal, but injusticious and improvident, then also he is to blame. If den't say that he had any discretion. He certainly has frequently exercised discretion ' Now, I hold that Mr. Sherman should sell the 4 per cent bonds, put the money in the Treasury, and then invest it from time to time in such a manner as the law may prescribe—and in no other manner. So far as he has any discretion he should use it in keeping proper balonices, just as a merchant would. The question to be decided when the First National Bank matter comes un again in Congress will be whether or not Mr. Sherman's transactions with that bank were of the nature of a loan of the National funds to private parties. As I have said, the Government have heaved that sum! This is what I want Congress to find out."

SECCRETARY SHERMAN'S VISIT.

SECRETARY SHERMAN'S VISIT.

HE DISCUSSES, AT THE CUSTOM HOUSE, COLLECTOR MERRITT'S NEW SCHEME FOR PAYMENT OF DU-TIES-HIS DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON.

Secretary Sherman, accompanied by Treasurer Gilfillan, spent the greater part of yesterday at the Custom House. Among those who called upon the Sec refary were General Hillhouse, Congressman-elect L. P. Morton, Congressman Anson G. McCook, J. W. Seligman, and C. M. Fry, president of the Bank of New-York. During the day aconference was held between Secretary Sherman, Cellector Merritt, Surveyor Graham, Naval Officer Burt and Assistant-Treasurer Hillhouse, on the bill prepared by Collector Merritt regulating the future payment of duties. The bill provides that custom duties shall be paid hereafter of coin. The proposition is that merchants shall draw checks upon their banks of deposit for duties, each check to specify the number of the entry to be passed and the precise amount of duty levied. The bank is then to issue a check for this amount on the Sub-Treasury, navable to the order of the Collector of the Port, which is to be presented to the casher at the Custom House. To meet these checks, banks doing such business for large importers must keep sufficient cola at the Sub-Treasury to draw upon. A law like this, Collector Merritt thinks, will be advantageous to merchants and will meet the demand made by the Chamber of Commerce, since it is claimed that it will afford absolute safety to the merchants, and will prevent the possibility of a recurrence of such frands as were practised upon Benkard & Hutton by R. A. Pedrick. Every check will be drawn for payment of duties on a specified invoice. Collector Merritt claims, that as it can only be used at the Custom House where the exact amount of each entry is kept, no one can use the check should it be lost, nor could the amount be "raised" and made available—the check not being accepted at the Custom House except for the precise duties shown by the records to be due.

The buil also contains another proposition for the concheck to specify the number of the entry to be passe and the precise amount of duty levied. The bank

venience of merchants. It provides for the appointment of special commissioners or notaries public, who alone shall be authorized to administer oaths to merchants desiring to make entries. These notaries are to be distributed over the city so as to avoid the present necessity of merchants subscribing their invoice ouths before a deputy collector at the Custom House. The bill has been submitted to Congressman wood, of the Committee of Ways and Means Secretary Sherman also discussed, yesterday, recent

Secretary Sherman also discussed, yesterday, recent and proposed Custom House changes in a general way, without arriving at any result. He received a letter from John Thompson, president of the Coase National Bank, in which, referring to a published statement reflecting upon Secretary Sherman and the First National Bank, Mr. Thompson says: "I desire to state distinctly that I am not either directly or indirectly the author of that communication, and had no knowledge of it until I saw it in print this morning."

After leaving the Custom House the Secretary called upon some personal friends. He left the city for Washington last evening.

MONTANA MATTERS.

THE NEW GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH LINE-CROW AGENCY INVESTIGATION AND RASCALITIES.

FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.] FORT ELLIS, M. T., Dec. 9 .- Lieutenant G. C. Doane, superintending the construction of the new Government telegraph line connecting Fort Elias with Forts Custer and Keogh, Deadwood and Bismarck, writes from Custer as follows: "The line is now complete from Keogh to Custer, and on the 7th it was working from Custer to Deadwood, Keogh and Bismarck. The entire line will be working by the 25th inst., as the work was progressing at the rate of eighteen miles per

party, and is rapidly setting poles and wire between it and "Custer." An operator and signal officer an ordered here, and this long needed line will soon be in full oper-

ation.

My telegram to you regarding the seizure of the Crow Agency covered reliable reports. The agent did not resist, and the investigation continues. Ditches which were never built by Agent Frost, and wood and hay which were never put in (except upon paper), appear in his expense account against the Government, and genhis expense account against the Government, and gen-eral rottonness is being uncarthed. This investigation will bring out facts fully supporting all that has been

NINE TIMES A MURDERER.

STEUBENVILLE, Ohio, Dec. 24.-Stephen D. Richards, who murdered the Harelson family at Kear-ney, Neb., has made a full confession, acknowledging the commission of nine murders within the last three years. His first murder was near Sand Hills, Neb., where he shot a man unknown to him in a quarrel. The next was that of Mrs. Harelson and three children in October last. He met Mrs. Harelson in jail, she having been arrested on a charge of aiding her husband to escape justice. When he was released he visited Mrs. Harclaon, remaining two weeks, when he couclided to murder her and take charge of her farm, which he had preëmpted. He killed her and the two older children with a smoothing-iron, and her babe by dashing its head against the floor. He then gave out that Mrs. Harelson had gone to Texas to join her fugitive husband. Richards was assisting a Swede named Peter Anderson in putting up a building, and killed him with a hammer. He says he committed two other murders, but refuses to give the names of the victims. cape justice. When he was released he visited Mrs.

THE RUADING RAILROAD'S ARREARAGES.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 24.—The following circular was issued to-day by the Philadelphia and Read-

cular was issued to-day by the Philaderphia and Reading Railroad Company:

As it will be impossible until after the opening of the Spring trade to reduce arrears now due to the employés of the company, it has been determined to pay all officers, agents, and other employés, for the months of september, October and November in, interest-bearing certificates, payable one-half of April 15 and the other half of May 15 next. These certificates will at once be receivable for any debt due the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company or the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company or the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company or the Philadelphia and Ton Company. They will be issued in sums of \$10 each, and all balances under \$10 will be paid in cash. The payment of the certificates will be commenced on Docember 24, and continued over the ince until finished. The wages for December will be paid in cash, commencing January. There will be paid with the December checkrolls to each person to whom the company has been in arrears for the past year a sum equal to 5 per cent on one month's pay due to him, for interest upon previously deferred payments. By order of the Board of Managers.

Franklin B. Gowen, President.

ROBBED OF WEDDING PRESENTS. STAMFORD, Conn., Dec. 24 .- On Monday

vening, the residence of George A. Hoyt, president of the Pennsylvania Coal Company, was entered by thieves while the family were at dinner, and more than \$1,000 worth of jewelry was stolen. Most of the property had been given to Mr. Hoyt's daughter, Mrs. swords, as wedding presents.

CINCINNATI BONDS VALID. COLUMBUS, Ohio, Dec. 24 .- In the Supreme Court this morning a decision was announced, on behalf of a majority of the Court, affirming the judgment of

the Court below that the recent issue of \$2,000,000 in bonds to complete the Cincinnati Southern Railroad was valid. Two judges dissented. CRIMES AND CASUALTIES-BY TELEGRAPH.

THE SUICIDE OF A CALIFORNIA MERCHARI.
SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 24.—Charles E. Gorham, a
native of Massachusetts, fifty-three years old, formerly a
Pront et. merchant, committed suicide to-day by cutting his
throat. SAVILLE, THE FORGER, HELD TO ANSWER.
SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 24.—W. J. Hadley, alias
Saville, ainas Percy, the English forger of circular notes on
the Union Bank of London, was held to answer, to-day, in
\$10,000 bail.

\$10,000 bail.

BANKERS SUED FOR FRAUD.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 24.—A suit has been brought against Adae & Co., the suspended bankers, alleging a fraudulout concealment of their property. The plaintiff is Caroline Hermes, who had \$1,600 deposited in the bank.

Hermes, who had \$1,500 deposited in the bank.

AN ACCIDENT IN A GAS FACTORY.

READING, Penn., Dec. 24.—By the explosion of a receiving cylinder at the Philadelphia and Reading Gas works, in this city, to-day, Frank Adams, the engineer, and John Zelters, his assistant, were injured, the latter fatally.

A LITTLE BOY PLAYS WITH A PISTOL—THE RESULT. WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—This morning Frank Myers, fourteen years old, a son of Charles Myers, proprietor of a restaurant, while handling a loaded pistol in the damagnoom, shot himself, the ball entering his forehead and killing him almost instantly.

AFFAIRS IN OTHER LANDS. GAMBETTA HOPEFUL. THE BRITISH DISTRESS INCREASING—SHERE ALI

OUT OF AFGHANISTAN. M. Gambetta expects that after the coming elections, the French Republicans will control the Senate by 25 majority. Mr. Gladstone has not yet decided to be a candidate for Edinburghshire. The distress in England is increasing. The fugitive, Shere Ali, has already passed his own frontier, on his way to Tashkend with part of the Russian Mission. The Panama Railroad was impassa-

GAMBETTA ON THE FRENCH SENATE. PARIS, Tuesday, Dec. 24, 1875. M. Gambetta, speaking at a banquet at the

ble for six days, owing to a flood.

Grand Hotel to-night, anticipated a Republican majority of 25 in the Senate, and said the duty of the Republic

PESTH, Tuesday, Dec. 24, 1878.
The Pesther Lloyd's St. Petersburg dispatch says the Ameer of Afghanistan and a portion of the Russian Mission have already passed the frontier, en route for Tashkend.

DISTRESS IN ENGLAND. LONDON, Tuesday, Dec. 24, 1878. The severe weather continues throughout

the United Kingdom, and the distress increases. The Mayor of Sheffield announced yesterday that £10,000 was required for the relief of the sick and hungry in that city. MR. GLADSTONE AND THE SCOTCH.

LONDON, Tuesday, Dec. 24, 1878. It is denied that Mr. Gladstone has decided to become a candidate for Edinburgh at the next gene ral election. He has not yet given a final answer to the

REDUCING WAGES IN SHEFFIELD. LONDON, Tuesday, Dec. 24, 1878. The master-builders of Sheffield have unanimously resolved to give notice of a reduction of wages in all the branches of the building trade—in the case of masons, bricklayers, plasterers and laborers on January 1, and of joiners on January 24.

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA.

MARINE DISASTERS AT PANAMA-PROSCRIPTION IN ECUADOR. PANAMA, Dec. 13 .- A heavy "norther" at

Aspinwall cut off communication between Aspinwall and Panama for several days. It began on the morning of the 4th just,, and blew with such force that in a short time a very heavy sea was rolling into the bay. The steamers at the wharves moved out and anchored on the other side of the bay, while the sailing vessels put things safe. Despite these precautions several small craft broke adrift and went ashore. The Royal Mail steamer Moselle and the Pacific Mail steamer Clyde remained outside for several days, and the former was forced to leave on the 9th inst. for England, being obliged to leave behind passengers, cargo and mails. places there were at least ten feet of water upon the track, and in others even the telegraph wires were under water, effectually cutting off all communication be isthmus for about six days. Two different lots of passengers awaited their chance to proceed upon their ourney. The English mail from the south coast and probably passengers for England also, will go forward

At about 7 o'clock on the night of the 10th inst., the wind sgain sprang up from the north in Aspinwall, and increased in force with wonderful rapidity. and the order to get up steam was at once among them was noticeable. Then the steamer Acahead sea. The Para (Royal Mail) attempted to follow, but several vessels were anchored in the way, and it was only after a couple of hours of maneuvering that she finally got away. The New-York steamer Clyde and the Liverpool steamer Bolivar soon followed. The forwas only after a couple of hours of maneuvering that she finally got away. The New-York steamer Clyde and the Liverpool steamer Bolivar soon followed. The former stood around the bay and outside until morning, but the Para and Acapuleo took refuge in Portobolio. The Bolivar went to sea. The Lorine sank on the morning of the 11th alongside wharf No. 4, earrying down with her 400 tons of coal. The three-masted schooner Express Tilton drove through waarf No. 5, tearing down the shed and bending the piles in every direction, and dritted against the Pacific Mail wharf, which she has effectually ruined. The saip herself is also a total loss. The J. P. Robinson ran on the reef at the Smallpox Hospital, was carried by the force of the waves over the reef, and fles on shore inside. She may be saved. The other vessels in pout are all safe,

reer at the smallpox Hospital, was carried by the force of the waves over the reef, and lies on shore in-ide. She may be saved. The other vessels in port are all safe, and will probably weather the gale. The Lorine and Express Titon beiong to Philadelphia, and the J. P. Robinson to G. Wessels, or New-York. The Pacific Mail wharf, wharves Nos. 1,4 and 5 are badly damaged, and it will take at least \$100,000 to repair them.

In Ecuador political affairs are in a most unhappy condition. The President, Veintemilla, is in Guayaqui, and searcely a day passes without some arbitrary and tyrannical act that deepens the detestation in which he is held by a large section of the community. His latestration is with the same of Guayaqui, and the imprisonment without trial of six others, on the pretence of their plotting the overthow of his Government.

Despite the fears of insurrectionary disturbances in consequence of the assassination of Don Manuel Pardo, which greatly depressed business, Petu remains in perfect peace. The effort to trace the plot to the Pierolista party has not completely succeeded, but the investigation is still vigorously urged. General Machucha and other prominent friends of Pierola who were arrested, have been set at liberty. The trial of the assassin Montaya proceeds rapidly, and he will no donot be shot without mercy, though in Peta the death pensity is rarely inflicted. The battailon of infantry known as the "Piehincha," which furnished the guards for the Senate and House of Deputies, and to the ranks of which the assassin Montaya belonged, has been disbanded. At Lima business is improving. Exchange on London is 24½ pence.

THE TRADE OF CARTHAGENA. THE SHARE EUROPE AND AMERICA RECEIVES.

PANAMA, Dec. 13 .- A recent report of the exports of the port of Carthagens for the year ended September 30, 1878, gives the total value of produce and coin sent abroad as \$756,082, of which \$122,007 was specie. The products of the country figured as follows: Pobacco, \$161,730; ivory nuts, \$177,858; hides, \$45,415; sugar, \$23,974; india rubber, \$149,-\$45,415; sugar, \$23,974; india rubber, \$4.39, 167; cotton, \$11,339; coffee, \$5,214; balsam, \$5,768; cattle, \$9,328; dividivi, \$17,577; cocoanuts, \$3,046. England received \$67,427 of specie out of \$255,489 of the products of the country sent to that country; Bremen received no coin, but \$237,925 in pro-duce; Hamburg received in all \$32,511; Paris, Havre and Berdeaux, \$51,421, and New-York \$148,443. The only shipment to Havana was 381 head of cattle, worth \$9,328, or about \$30 per head.

FEARS FOR FORTY CARPENTERS. St. John, N. B., Dec. 24 .- Much anxiety is felt here concerning the wood-boat New Dominion, sup-posed to have left Three Sisters, N. S., Saturday last for St. John, with forty shipcarpeders, who were paid off by Messrs. Eaton. If the vessel started and caught Saturday night's gale the chances are against her being able to reach any point in safety. She has not been heard from at all.

GOVERNOR HAMPTON OUT OF DANGER.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Dec. 24 .- The attending physicians pronounce Governor Hampton out of danger, out state that his recovery will be slow and tedious.

FIRE IN A CLEVELAND BARREL FACTORY.

CLEVELAND, Dec. 24 .- At half-past 9 o'clock this evening a fire broke out in one of the two large parrel factories at the Standard Oil Company's main works. The loss of a great amount of valuable adjoining property seemed imminent, but at the present writing the fire seems to be under control, and will probably not extend beyond the building named. As far as can be learned at present, the loss will probably not exceed \$10,000 or \$15,000.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

THE MIAMI CANAL LESSES.

DAYTON, Ohio, Dec. 24.—In the case of the State agt, the Miami Caual lessees, Judge Haynes decided in favor of the lessees, declaring that the deartuction of the Hamilton basin so interfered with the rights of the lessees that they cannot be held to a performance of the lessees that they cannot be held to a performance of the lessees that they cannot be held to a performance of the lessees that they cannot be held to a performance of the lessees for Epstember 19 per 19

Rev. R. R. Meredith and the Rev. N. G. Clark, D. D.

A STABBING AFFBAY IN NANTUCKET.

NEW-HAVEN, Conn., Dec. 24.—Between 1 and 2 o'clock this morning Ira N. Booth, Edwin Booth and Jermiah O'Donnell, while in Nantucket, accused William Murnan and his companions of robbing them. Ira N. Hooft stabled Murnan, probably fatally. He and O'Donnell are conferences.